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RCE/2876

PTO/SB/30 (09-03)

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**Request
For
Continued Examination (RCE)
Transmittal**

Address to:
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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Application Number	09/858,163
Filing Date	May 15, 2001
Examiner Name	Kimberly D. Nguyen
First Named Inventor	Michael EHRHART
Art Unit	2876
Attorney Docket Number	283-325

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

- Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).
 - ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
 - ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - ☐ Other _____
 - ☒ Enclosed
 - ☒ Amendment/Reply
 - ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)
 - ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - ☐ Other _____
- Miscellaneous**
 - ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
 - ☐ Other _____
- Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
 - ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. _____
 - ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
 - ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
 - ☐ Other IDS Fee of \$180.00 enclosed.
 - ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 770.00 enclosed
 - ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print /Type)	George S. Blasiak	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	37,283
Signature	<i>George S. Blasiak</i>	Date	

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

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Name (Print /Type)	Sarah A. Lockwood	Date	June 14, 2004
Signature	<i>Sarah A. Lockwood</i>		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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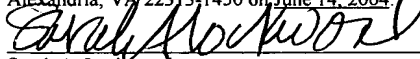
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Attorney Docket No. 283-325
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Sarah A. Lockwood

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/858,163 Confirmation No.: 3286
Applicant: Michael EHRHART
Filed: May 15, 2001
Art Unit: 2876
Examiner: Kimberly D. Nguyen
Docket No.: 283-325
Customer No.: 20874

Mail Stop: RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of March 12, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract being on page 10 of this paper and include both a replacement abstract and an annotated sheet showing changes.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 11 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 12 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 12 of this paper.